Merton Densher through the radiating impact of the refined and self-seeing Milly Theale. Milly's transcendence of the self and her final gesture of love and forgiveness are instrumental in driving away the dark clouds of moral ugliness from Densher's consciousness, and reaffirming his innate moral strength.

The sensitive, perceptive and cultured Densher is a journalist by profession. Unlike Flack, in *The Reverberator,* Densher is not vulgar and meddlesome, but is highly refined and gentlemanly. Son of "migrating parents", a chaplain and a copyist of pictures, Densher has had a sound scholastic and collegiate education in Germany and England- His being sent to America by his employers on an assign-ment is proof enough that he is a capable and conscientious journalist. Henry James dramatises the education of this intelligent and percep-tive young man in the novel, and the setting for the drama is the sordidly materialistic society of London. The expansion and enrich-ment of Densher's consciousness takes place in a society in which the materialistic drive is predominant, and spontaneous sentiment is conspicuously absent. In the final transfiguration of Densher, James stresses that it is only through morality that one achieves humanity, and not through mere manners, or mere material power, through a contact with the depths of the inner life, and not through an easy familiarity with its sensuous surfaces of facts and objects.

in Densher's London, money is the controlling factor. People think "tremendously of money/' and consequently subordinate human values to economic considerations. Everyone in this society "who had anything to give... got at least its value in return."[11] Relationships and ties between human beings are established not on the basis of sentiment or affection, but rather on the possibilities of economic and material advancement. London society, according to Kate, is-a "strange and dreadful monster, calculated to devour the unwary, to abase the proud, to scandalize the good."[15] In such a society,

where
Mammon is worshiped as the only God, evil manifests itself as in-
humanity and immorality. Honour and morality are at a discount in it,
and the sacred laws of Nature are scornfully violated. Kate's father
refuses ta have anything to do with his poor daughters, as they de not
mean anything to him. Mrs. Lowder disapproves of Densher because
he is poor, and she wants Kate to marry the. rich Lord Mark. Kate's
father and sister desire to benefit themselves by entrusting Kate to th&